from these, a 110 minute programme on the subject is being produced by Doordarshan during the current financial year, which will be in tele-serial and documentary formats.

TV Programmes for Agriculture

†731. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to discontinue the TV programmes related to agriculture; and

(b) the number of regional broadcasting centres which are telecasting the programmes relating to agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous corporation, has informed that there is no proposal to discontinue the TV programmes related to agriculture.

(b) Prasar Bharati have informed that all Doordarshan Kendras telecast programmes on agriculture of different durations and frequency. In addition, 18 Regional Kendras namely, Ahmedabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal, Delhi, Guwahati, Srinagar, Jaipur, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Patna, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jallandhar, Ranchi and Raipur are doing thematic agricultural programmes under the scheme "Mass media support to the agricultural extension" 5-days a week.

Prasar Bharati have also informed that area specific programmes are also being telecast in addition to the Regional Kendras in 36 clusters spread over 180 transmitters in the country telecasting agricultural programmes 5-days a week.

Decisions on media issues

732. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether government would take decisions on key media issues like allowing second phase of FM radio and foreign newspapers to publish from the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have reiterated that an autonomous broadcasting regulator like FCC in US and OFCom in UK would be in place soon;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has sent its recommendations on FM-2 guidelines to the Cabinet;

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(e) whether any legislation is being framed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Government has since formulated a policy for expansion of FM radio broadcasting (Phase II) under private sector which has been notified on 13th July, 2005. The Government has recently allowed facsimile edition of foreign newspapers, in whole or in part(s), to be published in India, subject to certain conditions. However, publication of Indian edition of foreign newspapers in India continues to be prohibited.

(b) The government is contemplating the establishment of an autonomous Authority to regulate content on TV channels. A draft Bill is under preparation. In this regard, institutions such as FCC and OFCom are being studied with interest.

(e) and (f) No fresh legislation is required for implementing the FM Phase- II policy.

FDI in print media

733. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have okayed 100 percent FDI in the non-news publications sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have worked out certain norms for this 100 per cent FDI to be followed; and